

“Surviving the Failure of Sin”
Luke 15:11-32

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” 1
John 1:8

“So if you think you are standing firm – be careful that you don’t fall.” 1
Corinthians 10:12

“A righteous man falls seven times, but he rises again.” Proverbs 24:16

What does God think about the person who fails?

Five observations:

1. God has compassion.
2. God is concerned.
3. God is consistent in his love for us.
4. God is always cheerful when someone comes back to him.
5. God’s custom is that he is always ready to forgive and reconcile.

What can we learn from failure?

1. Learn what not to do
2. Don’t get into a rut of failure
3. Overcome failure one step at a time
4. Don’t be haunted by the “I should have’s”
5. Do your best and trust in God
6. Become a better person
7. Don’t insist on your rights
8. You reap what you sow
9. God always, always forgives

Why don’t we ask God for help when we fail?

1. We don’t want God’s help
2. We keep falling in the same area time and time again
3. We try to overcome with our own willpower

Growing from your failures requires failing forward:

1. You fail forward when you accept responsibility for your failures.

“A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.” Proverbs 28:13

2. You will fail forward when you stop regretting and start repenting.

“Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: ‘Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.’ And he went outside and wept bitterly.” Matthew 26:75

3. You will fail forward when you shift your focus from the past to the future.

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13, 14

4. You will fail forward when you relax in God’s grace

“God knows what we’re made of. He remembers that we are dust.” Psalms 103:14

“Father, I have failed. I feel like a failure, like a spiritual loser. I ask you to forgive me as I repent of the sin that has overtaken me, and I ask that you deliver me from its snare. As I turn from sin, I turn toward you. Help me to start all over again. Help me to put you first in my life, to study your word, and to learn to use it effectively against the enemy, Satan. Father, I pray for a fresh start, for direction in my life. I ask that you bring about something good from my failure. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”